



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB1458 State Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Refugees
and Asylees - Establishment**

FAVORABLE

TO: Appropriations Committee,

**FROM: Susan Allen, member of the Maryland Episcopal Public Policy
Network (MEPPN)**

DATE: March 17, 2026

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice-Chair Kaiser, and Committee members,

My church All Saints Episcopal in Sunderland MD works hard to provide food to our neighbors who experience food insecurity. For example, our members fill backpacks with food so students can help feed their families over the weekend, we have supported a shelter called ECHO and we have a small food pantry. **WE DO NOT ASK WHETHER THESE FAMILIES ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE FEED ALL NEIGHBORS.** The MD Episcopal Diocese makes this statement about its commitment to Economic Justice:

“Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew how the nations will be judged and it is all about how we have treated the very people that our systems and biases have marginalized.”

Economic Justice includes the rights to food, clothing, proper health care and housing.
(<https://episcopalmaryland.org/advocacy/>)

In this spirit of the right of our neighbors to healthy food and full nutrition, Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) supports this bill that establishes the Maryland Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for Refugees and Asylees.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) is a ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, The Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and The Delaware-Maryland Synod ELCA

HB1458 expands SNAP eligibility for refugees and asylees and their families who deserve the compassion of all Marylanders.

MEPPN and all its faith allies cannot turn away from the hungry. Our religious organizations feed many people throughout Maryland, but the demand for free food from our neighbors has drastically increased due to cruel Federal SNAP exclusions.

Pass HB1458 in the House before Crossover Day on March 25.

There is no Senate version to provide SNAP benefits for refugees and asylees!

It's up to the Appropriations Committee and House Delegates to push HB1458 through.

The Maryland Episcopal Public Policy Network (MEPPN) requests a FAVORABLE report HB1458.

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